

**REMARKS**

These remarks are in response to the Final Office Action dated April 11, 2008. This response is timely filed. Although no fees are believed to be due, authorization is given to charge an necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-11 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,345,167 to Calvin (hereafter "*Calvin*"). Claims 2-4 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Calvin* as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,036 to Philipp. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Calvin* as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,518,820 to Gremm.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration of the claims that were previously submitted. The circuit arrangement according to claim 1 differs from the circuit arrangement disclosed in *Calvin* by at least the following features:

The charging voltage of *Calvin* is a DC voltage, see Fig. 2 reference voltage source 17; column 4, lines 9 to 11 "When the output of the oscillator is low, transistor 10 is turned off and transistor 9 is turned on, allowing the antenna to charge to the reference voltage through resistor 8"; and column 4, line 51 "R = reference voltage". Consequently the disclosed DC charging voltage can not serve as the triggering signal for the connecting means (MOS transistors) 9 and 10, as required by claim 1 of the present application.

The AC triggering signal of *Calvin* used to control the connecting means 9 and 10 is generated by oscillator 11, see Fig. 2 and column 3, lines 64 ff. "The transistors are connected to oscillator 11, whose output is a square wave with an amplitude sufficient to turn transistor 10 completely off and transistor 9 completely on when it is low, and to turn transistor 10 completely on and transistor 9 completely off when it is high". The AC triggering voltage generated by oscillator 11 can not be used as a charging voltage due to the isolating characteristics of the

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MOS-transistors 9 and 10 preventing a current to flow from oscillator 11 to the capacitive sensor element 7.

To the contrary, claim 1 of the present application recites:

"wherein said charging voltage is an AC voltage and said AC voltage is supplied to said connecting means as the triggering signal in such a way that, in alternating manner, said first connecting means or said second connecting means is conductive".

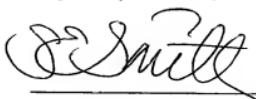
Therefore the subject matter of claim 1 differs completely from the circuit arrangement disclosed in *Calvin* at least in part because it requires that the charging voltage is an AC voltage and is also the triggering signal for the connecting means. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested by *Calvin* and thus the subject matter of claim 1 is novel and involves an inventive step in view of *Calvin*, when applied either individually or in combination with any other cited reference.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited. Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if a telephonic interview would expedite an allowance of the application.

Although no fees are believed to be due, authorization is given to charge an necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0951 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 7/1/08



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